

Graduates from SAGE Technical Truck Driver School



SAGE Graduates back row left to right Department of Labor and Industry Workforce Services Division Regional Director for Region 5, Steve Olson, Keith Music, James Kane, Dave Purkey, Tom Pavcek, Anthony Irwin. Front row left to right, Workforce Consultant, Jacklyn Damm, Deanna Aguilar, David Kurth, Sidney Job Service Manager, Vernetta Torgerson.

Many of you may have noticed the SAGE semi trucks around the Sidney area the past couple of weeks. These were being driven by SAGE students participating in an 80 hour training course to obtain their CDL and Hazmat Certificates. This training opportunity was made possible by a collaboration of Sidney Job Service, SAGE Technical Truck Driving School and Dawson Community College

The SAGE Corporation is fully accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology and fully certified by the Professional Truck Driver Institute. Its objective is training commercially licensed drivers. The SAGE Corporation in Billings has recently started offering remote instruction and on-site training. That decision has helped

communities like Sidney provide training for those who may not be able to travel to take the course.

Students attending SAGE were funded by W.I.R.E.D, which stands for Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development. It is a grant that provides federal funds to help business and industry, education, community development organization, state and tribal governments and philanthropic foundations work together to develop a regional economy. Originally the state proposed training 500 individuals in the WIRED Region (primarily Eastern Montana) in three years. To date WIRED funding has assisted in the training of more than 700 Montana residents, including 237 American Indians. Examples of training funded by WIRED grant assistance include CDL, welding, heavy equipment operation, flagging, HVAC technician, electrician, cement laying, mechanic (utilizing on the job training) and farm/ranch equipment.

A big congratulations goes out to our SAGE graduates as well as a thank you to Sidney Schools and Richland County Fair & Rodeo for providing classrooms and training range.

For more information on the WIRED region or covered training contact Jacklyn Damm at 433-1204.